



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DPI 2009-13

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## Summer Food Service Program seeks sponsors

MADISON—The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is seeking sponsors for the 2009 Summer Food Service Program to provide free meals to economically disadvantaged children during school summer vacations.

“The Summer Food Service Program is often an important component of educational, developmental, and recreational activities held during the summer to help children continue to learn and stay safe when school is not in session,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “The schools, local governments, or other organizations that serve as sponsors provide a vital service to Wisconsin’s children who might otherwise go hungry.”

The DPI has administered the Summer Food Service Program since its inception in 1975. Each year, the agency contracts with public and private schools; nonprofit organizations; city, county, and tribal governments; and other organizations to feed low-income children during the summer months. Last year, Wisconsin’s 106 summer food sponsors served more than 1.7 million meals at 526 sites. Nationally, 129.5 million meals were served at approximately 32,000 sites in 2008.

For the 2009 program year, sponsors may be:

- public or private nonprofit schools;
- public or private nonprofit residential camps;
- local, municipal, county, tribal, or state governments;
- public or private nonprofit colleges or universities;
- Upward Bound programs;
- libraries; or
- private nonprofit organizations (under special conditions).

Applications for the Summer Food Service Program must be completed on-line. New sponsors are required to attend training on March 27 in Madison. Continuing sponsors for the 2009 summer

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program are invited to choose a training session on Feb. 27 in Rhinelander, March 4 in Oak Creek, March 13 in Madison, or March 20 in Rice Lake. The 2009 Training Registration and Training Materials Request Form is available at [http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/pdf/sfsp\\_training\\_reg.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/pdf/sfsp_training_reg.pdf) and must be mailed or faxed to DPI by Feb. 20.

“During the school year, more than 560,000 children in Wisconsin eat school lunch each day and more than a third of them receive meals at free or reduced-price because they are from families with low household incomes,” Burmaster noted. “Continuing to provide healthy meals during the summer break from school through the Summer Food Service Program benefits our children and communities through improved nutrition and overall health.”

Meals for the Summer Food Service Program must be served in accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, which prohibits institutions from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S. Department of Agriculture-related activity should write to the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, or call (202) 720-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Additional information about the Summer Food Service Program is available from Amy Kolano, (608) 266-7124, or on web from the DPI at <http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/sfsp1.html> or from the USDA at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/>.

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**NOTES:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009\\_13.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_13.pdf).